

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 21-25 are cancelled. Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

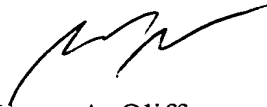
An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on September 22, 2004 forwarding one reference. It is requested that the Examiner consider the reference cited in that Information Disclosure Statement.

The rejection of claims 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsuo et al. (Matsuo), U.S. Patent No. 4,629,043 in view of Walenty et al. (Walenty), U.S. Patent No. 5,139,315 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 21-25.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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